

**The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “Introduction of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew at the Dedication of the New City Hall and County Building, Grand Rapids, MI, September 30, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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INTRODUCTION OF VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO T. AGNEW AT DEDICATION  
OF THE NEW CITY HALL AND COUNTY BUILDING AT 3:30 P.M.  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1969, IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR MILLIKEN, MAYOR SONNEVELDT, CHAIRMAN

BREWER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM MOST HAPPY TO BE HERE TODAY WITH YOU ON THIS  
MOST AUSPICIOUS OCCASION. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED BECAUSE  
TODAY I HAVE THE HONOR AND THE PRIVILEGE OF PRESENTING TO YOU  
THE MAN WHO OCCUPIES THE SECOND HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND.

IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT TED AGNEW SHOULD BE

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THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER OF THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY.

IT IS APPROPRIATE BECAUSE TED AGNEW IS A  
SPECIALIST IN THE FIELD OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS; HE IS  
A FORMER COUNTY EXECUTIVE WITH A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL  
PROBLEMS AND THE DIFFICULTY OF FINANCING SUCH AMBITIOUS  
PROJECTS AS OUR COMPLEX OF CITY AND COUNTY BUILDINGS HERE IN  
VANDENBERG CENTER; HE IS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
COUNCIL ON URBAN AFFAIRS; AND AS GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND FOR TWO  
YEARS HE WAS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN AND ACTIVE IN SOLVING

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL PROBLEMS.

LAST SPRING PRESIDENT NIXON ASSIGNED TED AGNEW TO WORK WITH THE NATION'S GOVERNORS AND MAYORS THROUGH A NEW OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. ~~WITH A 12 MAN STAFF DIRECTED BY THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF SOUTH DAKOTA.~~

~~SO~~ NOW THE GOVERNORS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE AN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, A MAN WHO IS HELPFUL IN GETTING COOPERATION ON DOMESTIC PROGRAMS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

VICE-PRESIDENT AGNEW HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF A

NEW NATIONAL URBAN POLICY. HE HAS A KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL PROBLEMS, AND LOOKS AT FEDERAL PROGRAMS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HOW THEY AFFECT PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

AS GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TED AGNEW REVISED THAT STATE'S TAX STRUCTURE TO RETURN A SLICE OF REVENUE TO THE CITIES AND COUNTIES. HE SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTED MORE TAX MONEY FOR SCHOOLS AND FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUT THROUGH TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY IN MARYLAND.

WHILE WORKING IN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS IS

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TED AGNEW'S FIRST LOVE, HIS DUTIES GO FAR BEYOND THAT. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET AND ~~THE~~ NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. HE HEADS THE NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL, ~~THE~~ COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, ~~THE~~ COUNCIL ON MARINE RESOURCES AND ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, ~~THE~~ PEACE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL, ~~THE~~ INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL, ~~THE~~ CABINET TASK FORCE ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY, AND THE COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS. I SEE HIM REGULARLY BECAUSE HE ATTENDS THE WHITE HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETINGS IN ADDITION TO

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PRESIDING OVER THE SENATE. INCIDENTALLY, TED AGNEW IS THE FIRST MAN TO PRESIDE OVER THE SENATE IN 24 YEARS WITHOUT FIRST HAVING SERVED AS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THAT BODY. HE IS ALSO THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT TO HAVE AN OFFICE IN THE WHITE HOUSE ITSELF.

THE SON OF GREEK-AMERICAN PARENTS, TED AGNEW PULLED HIMSELF UP BY HIS BOOTSTRAPS. HE ROSE FROM POVERTY TO BECOME AN ATTORNEY, A COUNTY EXECUTIVE, THEN A GOVERNOR AND NOW THE OCCUPANT OF THE SECOND HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE

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COUNTRY...A SHINING AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU...THE VICE-PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES.

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CARDS

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

SEPT. 30, 1969

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Herold R. Ford  
M.C.

TUESDAY  
3:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF SPIRO T. AGNEW  
DEDICATION OF NEW  
CITY HALL AND COUNTY BUILDING

